



**Shelby County Office of Preparedness
Mark H. Luttrell, Jr., Mayor**

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December 5, 2013

Preparations Underway for Ice and Freezing Rain

Planners met this afternoon at the Shelby County Office of Preparedness to ensure emergency agencies are ready for ice and freezing rain expected in the area early tomorrow.

“Emergency services coordinators have reviewed their responsibilities and are prepared. Director Bob Nations and his staff at the Shelby County Office of Preparedness are in constant contact with the National Weather Service and the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency,” said Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr.

Temperatures will continue to drop below freezing tonight. By morning, freezing rain and ice could make driving almost impossible. **“The ice could snap power lines and tree limbs making roads impassable. We could also have power outages. However, our emergency services coordinators are ready to respond to our Emergency Operations Center,”** said Director Nations.

Citizens need to also take precautions by checking on relatives and friends, especially those who are elderly, disabled or live alone. Pets should also be sheltered because of the dangerously cold temperatures.

Shelby County Public Works crews will be prepared. **“Our trucks are stationed throughout the county and will be spreading a mixture of salt and cinders,”** said Shelby County Public Works Director Tom Needham.

Here are some additional winter safety tips: Avoid being outside if possible. Dress warmly and wear layers of clothes. Keep water lines dripping, insulate outside water faucets, and have plenty of blankets should power go out. If using a generator, make sure you vent the exhaust. Never use charcoal indoors. The vapors are deadly.

For vehicles, check the antifreeze level, windshield wipers and have a full tank of gas. Always have a heavy coat, hat, gloves and walking shoes in case your vehicle gets stranded. Keep an emergency kit on board with first aid materials, bottles of water and snack foods.

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(End of Release)